

SEPTEMBER AT LAST!

At last... September, surely this first month of our new gardening year - is the most exciting time of year, for any keen gardener! I hope that we have now had the last of the late winter cold spells, so frosted plant material can safely be cut back now. September is usually hot and dry month so until the rains arrive our gardens will require watering. Do remember that a good soaking twice a week is far more effective than alight sprinkle daily.

Spring is here!



As it is SPRING, we will be giving away six prizes to the best "spring hats" three for the ladies and three for the gents...please come prepared.

Remember to fill in your answers to the competition which is the same as the previous month, as no one got the correct answer.

- 1) What is the importance of the first week in September, in the garden world?
- 2) What is another name for Pelargonium?

Once again please **DO NOT** fill in your answers at the club meeting!

In and around the GARDEN

- Fuchsias should be producing their new summer growth now, feeding is therefore essential and pruning if you have not already done so. The same would apply to Hydrangeas.
- Towards the end of the month, soft cuttings of most shrubs can be made.
- Increase your watering of your roses, to every second or third day to accommodate the new rapid growth. Boost new growth by fertilising your plants. Drench you roses during early September with Koinor to repel insects, a layer of mulch will keep the soil cool during the hot summer months.
- "Local is lekker" celebrate our National Heritage Day, by planting an indigenous plant or two, suggestions are:- Strelitzia 'Mandel's Gold, Tulbaghia 'wild garlic' Wild iris 'Watsonia' or Felica's.
- Another celebration is our National Arbor Month – so if you are thinking about planting a small tree, consider the tree of the year for 2014. The Lavender tree 'Heteropyxis' or the beautiful White ironwood 'Vepris' (one of the comments made by judges at our previous gardens competition, was that more gardens need to plant some small trees!)
- A beautiful indigenous ground cover is 'Jewel of the Desert' (Delosperma) cold hardy and very drought tolerant. Once established they will spread across your garden like a beautiful carpet.



Felica amelloides



Watsonia hybrid

God has made
(rainy days)
so that gardeners
can get other
work done!



OUR NEXT MEETING

Date: 13th September 2014
Time: 1:30pm for 2:00pm
Venue: Lifestyle Lecture Hall
Speaker: Sue Dandridge of Dandridge Irises
Topic: Growing Irises